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REPORT NO.

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DATE OF INFO. 14-17 December 1948  
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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

1. The tentative date of 16 December 1948, set for a general strike in the oil fields, passed quietly and uneventfully. Dissension had grown out of the fact that not all the oil companies had paid the workers their annual bonuses on 15 December as had been expected. Although Greole paid their bonuses on that date, Caribbean and Mens Grande were not expected to pay until 20 or 21 December. As a consequence, the workers decided to delay action until all gratuities were paid. The strike possibilities have caused grave concern among the rank and file of labor and oil company management.
2. A small, underground group of Accion Democratica leaders are clandestinely issuing inflammatory handbills from time to time which are serving to keep the strike issue well before the people. Many of the handbills appeal to the "patriotic" members of the armed forces and urge them to revolt against Colonel Carlos Delgado Chalbaud, Provisional President of Venezuela, and Colonel Marcos Perez Jimenez, Minister of National Defense, and other so-called traitors to the former government of Romulo Gallegos. Army leaders are acutely aware of this device to create dissension within their ranks and are redoubling their efforts to stamp out this element. The handbills are signed "Comite de Resistencia". A stack of subversive mimeographed pamphlets was recently found wrapped in Mens Grande letterheads. It is believed that these leaflets are being turned out by an employee of the Mens Grande Oil Company, and efforts are being made to detect him.

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A re-check with the military, local authorities, and a cross-section of labor indicates that the possibilities of an immediate general strike are rather remote. The Army remains in complete control of the situation. There was no noticeable increase in spending after the receipt of bonuses that might indicate purchasing of provisions to cover any protracted strike period.)

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

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